UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA CASE NO. 22-22707-CV-WILLIAMS

PAYCARGO	FINANCE	LP.
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Plaintiff,

٧.

ASPEN AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY, et al.,

Defendants.

<u>ORDER</u>

THIS MATTER is before the Court on Magistrate Judge Eduardo I. Sanchez's Report and Recommendation (DE 43) ("Report") on Defendant Aspen American Insurance Company's ("Defendant") Motion to Dismiss (DE 15) ("Motion"). In the Report, Magistrate Judge Sanchez recommends that the Court deny Defendant's Motion. (DE 43 at 1.) Judge Sanchez determined that Plaintiff plausibly alleges that Nominal Defendant Bay Maritimes Inc. ("Bay Maritimes"), the principal on the surety bond that Defendant issued, was the party acting as the Non-Vessel Operating Common Carrier ("NVOCC") in the transportation-related freight shipment activities from which Plaintiff PayCargo Finance LP's ("Plaintiff" or "PCF") claims arose—"claims arising from Bay Maritimes' non-payment for services that were provided by PCF to facilitate specific shipments of freight by Bay Maritimes as an NVOCC." (Id. at 7.) Thus, Judge Sanchez concluded that, in accordance with the applicable pleading standards, Plaintiff states a claim for which relief can be granted and "the Complaint survives dismissal." (Id.)

The Court carefully reviewed the Report,¹ the Parties' thoughtful and well-argued objections and response, the record, and applicable law, and the Court agrees with Judge Sanchez's well-reasoned analysis and conclusion that Defendant's Motion be denied. Accordingly, it is **ORDERED AND ADJUDGED** as follows:

- 1. The Report (DE 43) is **AFFIRMED AND ADOPTED.**
- 2. Defendant's Motion (DE 15) is **DENIED**.
- 3. Defendant shall file its answer to the Complaint within **fourteen (14) days** of the date of this Order. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 12.

DONE AND ORDERED in Chambers in Miami, Florida, this <u>14th</u> day of September, 2023.

KATHLEEN M. WILLIAMS UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

¹ The Court conducted a de novo review of the portions of the Report to which Defendant objected.